

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08
ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 IOE-00 /124 W
-----151714Z 050240 /43

P R 151513Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0650
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UN, PARM
SUBJECT: EC DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING

REF: LONDON 2622

SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION. THE FEBRUARY 4 MEETING OF
THE EC DISARMAMENT EXPERTS WAS THE SECOND SUCH GATHERING
OF THE NINE. THE FIRST WAS IN THE HAGUE UNDER DUTCH
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CHAIRMANSHIP LAST SEPTEMBER. THE OFFICIAL TITLE OF
THE GROUP IS "UN EXPERTS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF
DISARMAMENT EXPERTS." THIS FORMULATION IS MEANT TO
MEET FRENCH AND IRISH SENSITIVITIES ABOUT WIDE
RANGING ARMS CONTROL DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE EC. CW,
MDW, REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS, REGIONAL ARMS
CONTROL, TEST BAN ISSUES, NWFZS, ENMOD AND THE UNSSD

WERE CONSIDERED AT THE RECENT MEETING IN LONDON.

1. CW. THE EC IS GENERALLY SATISFIED AT THE OUTCOME OF THE SUBJECT AT THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AGREED THE WEST SHOULD RETAIN THE INITIATIVE. HOWEVER, THE EXPERTS ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE FOR RAPID CW PROGRESS IS NOT FAVORABLE. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF CONVENING AN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP AT THE CCD ON CW. ALTHOUGH THE EXPERTS GENERALLY FELT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA, THEY ALSO JUDGED THAT THE BEGINNING OF THE SPRING SESSION IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME. THEY DECIDED TO AWAIT THE VIEWS OF THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION ON CW BEFORE GOING AHEAD. DURING DISCUSSION, THE FRG EMPHASIZED IT FAVORS PARALLEL CONSIDERATION IN NATO OF THE WESTERN APPROACH TO CW.

2. WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. THE NINE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN US VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. THE EXPERTS AGREED THAT THE WEST HAS A RESPECTABLE POSITION ON MDW, AND DISCUSSED HOW THIS COULD BE MORE SUCCESSFULLY RELECTED IN VOTING AT THE NEXT UNGA. THE REPRESENTATIVES ALSO DISCUSSED WHETHER THE EC SHOULD SEND EXPERTS TO THE INFORMAL MARCH 14 MEETING IN GENEVA CALLED BY THE USSR. THERE WAS SOME EXCHANGE ON HOW THE NINE COULD PERSUADE THE SOVIET UNION TO MOVE FROM ITS BROAD BRUSH TREATY APPROACH TO ONE MORE LIKE THAT OF THE WEST. AN IMPROVEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN POSITION AT THIS FALL'S UNGA MIGHT CONVINCE

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THE SOVIETS TO ACCEPT A CONSENSUS RESOLUTION. AT LUNCH, THE BRITISH INFORMALLY WONDERED IF THERE WAS SCOPE FOR A DEAL IN WHICH THE EC WOULD SEND EXPERTS TO THE MARCH 14 MEETING IN RETURN FOR A MORE FLEXIBLE SOVIET ATTITUDE. NOTHING WAS AGREED. IN ESSENCE, THE EXPERTS CONCLUDED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD CAPTURED THE INITIATIVE ON MDW, THAT THE WEST WAS BEING PULLED ALONG, AND THAT WE ARE NOT USING THE LEVERAGE WE POSSESS.

3. REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS. THE EXPERTS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS ISSUE IN THE LAST UNGA AND AGREED THAT THE USSR HAD BEEN PUT ON THE DEFENSIVE. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO MAINTAIN THAT SITUATION. AS A MEANS OF DOING SO, THERE SHOULD BE A WESTERN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE EXPERT GROUP WHICH IS TO PREPARE THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT AT THE NEXT UNGA. AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE WEST SHOULD AIM FOR A RESOLUTION WHICH

ESTABLISHES A PILOT STUDY OF A CROSS SECTION OF COUNTRIES.

4. DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL. THE BELGIANS CIRCULATED A MEMORANDUM ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH THEY HAD PREPARED FOR THE LAST UNGA. MOST OF THE NINE THOUGHT THE BELGIAN APPROACH WAS WORTH PURSUING BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WAS A GOOD IDEA FOR A NON-THIRD-WORLD COUNTRY TO PUT IT FORWARD. THE EXPERTS CONCLUDED THEY WOULD AWAIT US VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND SPECIFICALLY ON THE MATTER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS BEFORE DECIDING NEXT STEPS.

5. TEST BAN ISSUES. THE REPRESENTATIVES SIMPLY TOOK NOTE OF WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BRIEFLY DISCUSSED RECENT US STATEMENTS ON THE CTB, AND EXCHANGED JUDGMENTS ON LIKELY USSR REACTIONS TO AN

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AMERICAN INITIATIVE. NONE OF THE NINE WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE USSR WOULD ADDRESS THIS QUESTION AS SERIOUSLY AND AGGRESSIVELY AS THE US MIGHT WISH.

6. NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONES. THE GROUP AGREED THAT OF THE FIVE RESOLUTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE LAST UNGA, THE EC HAD VOTED LOGICALLY ON FOUR. THE BRITISH, IN PARTICULAR, THOUGHT THAT THE NINE SHOULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE RESOLUTION. THE EXPERTS AGREED TO REVIEW THE EC'S POSITION ON NWfZ BEFORE THE NEXT GENERAL

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PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /124 W
-----151723Z 050192 /43

P R 151513Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0651
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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ASSEMBLY.

7. ENMOD. A NUMBER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES DESCRIBED RECENT SOVIET DEMARCHES WHICH ARGUED FOR FIRST DAY SIGNATURES OF THE CONVENTION. THOSE WHO WILL SIGN EARLY ON, EXCLUDING THE FRENCH, AGREED TO KEEP IN TOUCH.

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8. THE UNSSD. THE BRITISH CHAIRMAN TOOK THE NINE ORALLY OVER PARAS 1-10 OF THE UK PAPER (REFTEL) BUT DID NOT GIVE THE EXPERTS A COPY. THEY CONCURRED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF ONE OUT OF THREE CONSULTANTS WHO ARE TO HELP THE SECRETARY GENERAL PREPARE POSITION PAPERS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION WAS FROM THE WEST. THE GROUP OPINED THAT IN THE SPECIAL SESSION THERE WAS LIKELY TO BE A CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON THE LINK BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AID AND DISARMAMENT. THE NINI DECIDED TO WATCH CAREFULLY THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND TO CONSULT ON THEIR REPLIES TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, DUE APRIL 15. THE GROUP KEPT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER EXPERTS' SESSION SOME TIME BETWEEN THE MARCH PREPCON AND THE MAY MEETING.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, CONSULTANTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON02646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770053-0994
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770241/aaaabkew.tel
Line Count: 222
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9b40cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 2622
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3321317
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UN, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9b40cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009